

# Force XXI



**T**WO years of planning and development culminated in March 1997 with the Task Force XXI Advanced Warfighting Experiment at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. Over 5,000 4th Infantry Division soldiers, designated as the Experimental Force, or EXFOR, deployed from Fort Hood, Texas, to participate.

The Army's Division Advanced Warfighting Experiment in November at Fort Hood was a multi-echelon, integrated experiment emphasizing division-level battle command in a competitive, constructive simulation. The DAWE will generate important division design decisions that are expected to be announced in February. Beyond the DAWE, the Army will continue to work toward

Photos by SSgt. Alan Moore. Photo composition by Paul Henry Crank.





joint-force experimentation and will assist in solving a myriad of interoperability issues.

The experimentation concept is the vehicle to employ in managing change. The EXFOR is expected to be a more coherent, more capable force than ever before. Situation awareness will allow units to identify where other units and individuals are on the battlefield and will potentially be a most powerful enabler, as will sensors to detect the enemy force.

The challenge for Force XXI is to fuse multiple source data into meaningful information and knowledge of enemy intentions. Doctrine changes daily as more is learned from experimentation and application. Most of the experimental equipment, such as Javelin and Appliqué, are combat multipliers.

Future leaders must be capable of shaping the information derived from battlefield digitization and must be able to use that information in the best possible way to maintain battlefield information dominance. Information management and digitization training must be incorporated into our training base and institutions.

Finally, wraparound simulation at NTC has proven to be a winner. The use of a simulation to replicate and provide a virtual combat environment for the live brigade enhances training.

AWEs will undoubtedly dramatically change Army doctrine, training, leader development, organizational structure, materiel and soldiers. They will hopefully result in a force ready to fight and win on any battlefield in the 21st century.

